

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-19

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 AEC-11 CIAE-00 H-03 INR-11 IO-14

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 437

SECDEF WASHDC

INFO USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USNMR SHAPE

USCINCEUR

S E C R E T MBFR VIENNA 0262

MBFR NEGOTIATIONS

FROM US REP MBFR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJECT: MBFR NEGOTIATIONS: FRG DELEGATION VIEWS ON PHASING

REF: MBFR VIENNA 155

1. DURING SEPTEMBER 19 BILATERAL WITH US DELOFF, FRG
DEPUTY REP (HOFMANN) RECALLED HIS EARLIER INDICATIONS TO
US THAT SOME DEGREE OF FLEXIBILITY WAS DEVELOPING IN
THE TRADITIONAL FRG POSITION FAVORING THE PHASED
APPROACH TO MBFR. DESPITE HIS OWN PREVIOUS ESTIMATE
THAT FRG AUTHORITIES MIGHT BE READY TO TAKE SOME
BUNDESWEHR REDUCTIONS IN PHASE I, HOFMANN STATED THAT
CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT HAD DURING THE SUMMER RECESS

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DETERMINED THAT THE BUNDESWEHR SHOULD NOT RPT NOT

TAKE FIRST PHASE REDUCTIONS.

2. HOFMANN SAID THERE WERE TWO REASONS FOR THIS NEW DECISION BY SCHMIDT. THE FIRST REASON RELATED TO THE SERIOUS ECONOMIC CRISIS IN WESTERN EUROPE, WHICH THE GERMANS EXPECTED WOULD LEAD EVENTUALLY TO REQUESTS FOR PHASE I REDUCTIONS BY OTHER ALLIED DIRECT PARTICIPANTS. HOFMANN SAID SCHMIDT WAS KEENLY AWARE OF THE ALREADY EXISTING PRESSURES FOR FORCE REDUCTIONS IN THE U.K., THE NETHERLANDS, AND BELGIUM. IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, AND GIVEN THE BROADER IMPLICATIONS OF THE ECONOMIC CRISIS FOR WEST EUROPEAN POLITICAL STABILITY, SCHMIDT HAD DECIDED THAT THE BUNDESWEHR SHOULD NOT TAKE REDUCTIONS IN PHASE I. HOFMANN SAID THE CHANCELLOR WAS BOLSTERED IN THIS VIEW UPON LEARNING THAT THE CONVERSION OF 30,000 BUNDESWEHR FORCES TO "READY RESERVE" STATUS WOULD, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT TRAINING AND OTHER COSTS, PRODUCE RELATIVELY MODEST OVERALL BUDGETARY SAVINGS.

3. SECONDLY, ACCORDING TO HOFMANN, SCHMIDT AGREES THAT THE BUNDESWEHR CARD WILL BE ESSENTIAL IF THE ALLIES ARE TO HAVE ANY HOPE OF GAINING A COMMON CEILING IN PHASE II. HOFMANN SAID SCHMIDT WILL BE THOROUGHLY BRIEFED ON MBFR BEFORE HIS OCTOBER 28 VISIT TO MOSCOW. FROM THAT TIME ON, HOFMANN EXPECTED THAT THE CHANCELLOR WILL MAKE THE IMPORTANT DECISIONS IN BONN ON MBFR.

4. AS TO MBFR PHASE II REDUCTIONS, HOFMANN REITERATED THE FRG INTEREST IN PARTICIPATION, AT THE SAME TIME STRESSING THE GERMAN OPPOSITION TO NATIONAL SUB-CEILINGS OR TO ACTUAL DISBANDMENT OF GERMAN FORCES. RESOR

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